GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1202
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
VILLAGE ON WHEELS PROJECT
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to start `Village on Wheels` project in Madurai, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof alongwith its present status;

(c) whether the Railways propose to extend the said project in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) to (d); The Ministry of Railways has launched a new special tourist train called the `Bharat Darshan`(earlier named as Village on Wheels) consisting of sleeper class coaches to run on pre-determined circuits to enable tourists from different regions to visit important places of religious, cultural and historical importance at an affordable cost as a comprehensive package including boarding and lodging, sightseeing, local transport, meals etc. It has already undertaken trips to places in Tamil Nadu.

Depending upon the responses received on the operation of the train in the initial circuits, similar other trains would be introduced on various circuits covering the tourist destinations in the country.